

## Fluid Leasable Minerals - Oil & Gas and Geothermal

Oil and gas lease offers are reviewed in the PRA prior to being placed on the BLM's simultaneous leasing system. Standard and special lease stipulations are included in the individual leases (See Appendix G) to protect other surface resource values.

The PRA processes several Notices of Intent (NOIs) to conduct geophysical work each year. Special stipulations are attached to the NOI covering various restrictions due to water, soil, wildlife, and cultural resources. Shot-hole drilling is regulated by both BLM and the State of Idaho.

Oil and Gas operations requirements are outlined in BLM Onshore Operations Order No. 1, and BLM Manual Handbooks. Stipulations developed from the Environmental Assessment become conditions of approval in the Application to Drill (APD). Inspections are conducted to assure the conditions in the ADP are being complied with.

At this time there are no geothermal leases or lease applications in the PRA. Any new permits for exploration and drilling would be handled very much the same way as in oil and gas.

## Locatable Minerals

Mining claims and the mining of locatable minerals are regulated by the 1872 mining law, as amended, and in 43 CFR 3802 and 3809 Surface Management Regulations.

BLM requires the claimant to submit a Notice or a Plan of Operations whenever surface disturbing activities produced by the use of mechanized equipment are proposed. The State of Idaho also has enacted laws that regulate such activities (Idaho Code Title 47 Chapters 13 and 15).

## Salable Minerals

Sales and free use permits are processed according to 43 CFR 3600 regulations and BLM Manual handbooks. Mining and reclamation plans and/or special site management stipulations are developed for each site of mineral materials removed. Permittees are required to reclaim exclusive use sites as specified in permit stipulations. Sales from community pits and common use areas include fees for the eventual reclamation by BLM of lands affected.

## Forest Management

1. Merchantable timber or tracts identified as intensive management areas are to be systematically harvested using appropriate methods.
2. Salvage operations will have priority when trees are destroyed by fire, disease, insects, or other forest pests.

3. All non-stocked intensive management areas due to timber harvest, insects, disease, or fire should be regenerated naturally. Underplanting planting to acceptable species shall be considered when natural regeneration does not occur within five years.
4. Other guidelines for forest management activities that will be incorporated as operating procedures can be found in the Eastern Idaho Sustained Yield Unit, Timber Management Final Environmental Analysis Record.

### Range

#### Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments and unallotted tracts in the PRA have been assigned to one of three management categories: "M" (maintain), "I" (improve), and "C" (custodial). They have been assigned based on present resource conditions, potential for improvement, and management objectives. The "M" category allotments generally will be managed to maintain current satisfactory resource conditions; "I" category allotments generally will be managed to improve resource conditions; and "C" category allotments will receive custodial management while protecting existing resource values.

#### Allotment-specific Objectives for the Improvement Category

Multiple use management objectives have been developed for each allotment in the "I" category (see Appendix A). Future management actions, including approval of allotment management plans, will be tailored to meet these objectives. Monitoring will also be used to measure the changes brought about by new livestock management practices and to evaluate the effectiveness of management changes in meeting stated objectives. Detailed guidance for rangeland monitoring is available in current BLM policy and guidance.

The Federal regulations that govern changes in allocation of livestock specify that permanent increases in livestock forage or suspensions of preference "shall be implemented over a five-year period...." The regulations do provide for adjustments to be implemented in less than five years when an agreement is reached to implement the adjustment in less than five years or a shorter implementation period is needed to sustain resource productivity.

#### Temporary Suspensions and Closures

Temporary suspensions of grazing use or closures of all or portions of allotments may be implemented to protect the public lands because of drought, fire, flood, or insect infestation. When conditions such as fire, flood, or insect infestation create a significant impact on the normal operation of a grazing operator, efforts to mitigate the impact

will be taken by BLM. These mitigating efforts may consist of relocation of grazing use, modification of grazing systems, and granting of temporary nonrenewable grazing use in other allotments under permit or lease. No action will be taken by BLM prior to consultation and coordination with affected permittees or lessees and other affected parties.

### Range Improvements and Treatments

Typical range improvements and treatments and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in Appendix A. The extent, location, and timing of such actions will be based on the allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the resource management planning process, interdisciplinary development and review (to include the Idaho Department of Fish and Game) of proposed actions, operator contributions, and BLM funding capability. (Since some of the soils in the PRA may be unsuitable for range improvement projects, proposed projects will be investigated for feasibility prior to approving location and design plans.)

All allotments in which range improvement funds are to be spent will be subjected to an economic analysis. The analysis will be used to develop a final priority ranking of allotments for spending range improvement funds that are needed to carry out activity plans. The highest priority for implementation generally will be assigned to those improvements for which the total anticipated benefits exceed costs. Generally, all structural range improvements will be maintained by the benefiting party(s). All nonstructural range improvements will be maintained by BLM.

Noxious weed and grasshopper control will be considered under all alternatives. Individual sites and species (i.e., Canada thistle, musk thistle, Dyers woad, leafy spurge, etc.) will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the environmental assessment process. Where biological controls have proven to be effective, they will be used in preference to chemical or mechanical methods.

### Grazing Systems

The type of system to be implemented will be based on consideration of the following factors:

1. Allotment-specific management objectives (see Appendix A).
2. Resource characteristics, including vegetation potential and water availability.
3. Operator needs.
4. Implementation costs.

Typical grazing systems available for consideration are described in Appendix A.

## Unallotted Tracts

Unallotted tracts generally will remain available for further consideration for authorized grazing, as provided for in the current BLM grazing regulations. However, certain tracts currently closed or restricted to grazing use will remain so.

## Wildlife and Fisheries Program

### General

Fish and wildlife habitat will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat. Habitat improvement projects will be implemented where necessary to stabilize or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat condition. Such projects will be identified through habitat management plans or multiple resource management activity plans.

### Seasonal Restrictions

Seasonal restrictions will continue to be applied where they are needed to mitigate the impacts of human activities (except for leasable minerals exploration and development) on important seasonal wildlife habitat. The major types of seasonal wildlife habitat and the time periods in which restrictions may be needed are shown in Table 6. Approximately 39 percent (103,232 acres) of the PRA lies within areas potentially subject to restriction. During any given year, the authorized officer may waive or adjust seasonal wildlife restrictions if actual conditions warrant.

TABLE 6  
SEASONAL WILDLIFE RESTRICTIONS

Habitat	Restricted Period
Big Game Winter Range	11/15-04/30
Elk Calving Areas	04/30-06/30
Raptor Nest Sites	Dates vary by species
Sage Grouse/Sharp-tailed Grouse Strutting Grounds	03/01-04/30
Sage Grouse/Sharp-tailed Grouse Nesting and Broodrearing	04/30-06/30
Endangered Species	No-Surface-Occupancy, size is site specific.
Riparian areas, live water	No closer than 500 feet year round

### Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitat

Whenever possible, management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species will be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement. For instance, the sensitive plant, Astragalus spatulatus (spoon-leaf milkvetch), is found in two proposed RNAs. Two others, Astragalus jejunus (milkvetch) found in the same general area and Salicornia rubra (red glasswort) found in salt seeps in Caribou County, do not have special protection proposed at this time. However, a monitoring plan for each species will be initiated to determine their population trends. If it is determined that they need protection, then that protection will be provided.

The same concern will be shown for all sensitive species found in the PRA.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted prior to implementing projects that may affect habitat for threatened and endangered species. If a "may affect" situation is determined through the BLM biological assessment process, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be initiated in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

### Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat

Sufficient forage and cover will be provided for wildlife on seasonal habitat. Forage and cover requirements will be incorporated into allotment management plans and will apply to specific areas of primary wildlife use.

Range improvements generally will be designed to achieve both wildlife and range objectives. Existing fences will be modified and new fences will be built so as to allow wildlife passage. Water developments generally will not be established for livestock where significant conflicts with wildlife for vegetation or water would result.

Vegetation manipulation projects will be designed to minimize impact on wildlife habitat and to improve it whenever possible. These projects will comply with sage grouse, elk, and mule deer management guidelines. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be consulted one year in advance on all vegetation manipulation projects. Animal control programs will be coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Riparian habitat needs will be taken into consideration in developing livestock grazing systems and pasture designs. Some of the techniques that can be used to lessen impacts are:

1. Constructing shade structures in conjunction with water development away from riparian areas.

2. Using prescribed fire to improve vegetation which will draw cattle away from riparian zones.
3. Changing class of stock from cow/calf pairs to herded sheep or yearlings.
4. Eliminating hot season grazing or scheduling hot season grazing for only one year out of every three.
5. Locating salt away from riparian zones.
6. Locating fences so that they do not confine or concentrate livestock near the riparian zone.
7. Developing alternative sources of water to lessen the grazing pressure on the riparian habitat.
8. Using temporary electric fencing.
9. Excluding livestock completely from riparian habitat by using protective fencing, if fencing is determined to be the only solution to the conflict.

#### Forestry Activities

Where applicable, the elk management guidelines contained in Elk Habitat Relations for Central Idaho (Ralphs 1981) will be followed. These include:

1. Managing public vehicle access to maintain the habitat effectiveness of security cover and key seasonal habitat (such as winter range and calving/nursery areas) for deer and elk.
2. Maintaining adequate untreated peripheral zones around important moist sites, e.g., wet sedge meadows, springs, and riparian zones.
3. Ensuring that slash depth inside clear cuts does not exceed 1 1/2 feet.
4. Generally discouraging thinning immediately adjacent to clear cuts.

#### Fencing

To the extent possible, fences will be located and constructed to maximize their visibility to animals, to take advantage of flat areas (benches, saddles, etc.).

Existing fences posing a potential or known problem to big game movement will be modified.

### Water Development

1. Free water for use by wildlife shall be maintained at or within 1/4 mile of all spring developments. This water shall remain available for at least as long a period as predevelopment conditions provided.
2. Adequate water shall remain at spring developments to maintain any associated riparian zone.
3. Height of troughs or other water containers shall not exceed 20 inches above ground level.
4. Bird ladders or other appropriate wildlife escape devices will be installed and maintained in all water troughs.
5. Pipelines and troughs should remain charged with water from June 1 to October 31 to provide for wildlife that has become dependent upon them. Maintenance of these projects will be negotiated between BLM, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the permittee.

### Vegetation Manipulation

1. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall be given at least a one year notice prior to any vegetation manipulation project.
2. Brush control projects will be designed to maximize edge effect to the extent possible. Islands of untreated vegetation will be incorporated into project design as necessary to provide cover for wildlife.
3. Proposed brush manipulation projects on deer and elk winter range must have a predicted neutral or beneficial effect on these species.
  - a. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 10 percent on sage grouse broodrearing areas.
  - b. The sagebrush canopy cover will not be reduced below 20 percent on sage grouse nesting and wintering areas.
4. Brush control proposals within 2 miles of known strutting grounds will be subject to on-site inspection by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel to determine prohibited areas.
5. As a rule, no brush control will be allowed within 100 yards of streams, meadows, or secondary drainages (dry and intermittent). The desirability of increasing or decreasing the width on specific areas will be determined via on-site evaluation by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel.
6. A mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs should be used in all range rehabilitation or improvement projects.

## Soil and Watershed Management

### General

Soil and water resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project planning. Such an evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed projects and the sensitivity of the resources. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to prevent adverse impacts to soil and water.

### Soils

Adequate cover will be maintained to keep soil erosion within tolerable limits. Recent research suggests the soil loss tolerance figure for rangeland in this area is 5.0 tons per acre per year.

### Water

Water quality will be maintained or improved in accordance with State and Federal standards. State agencies will be consulted on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality. Management actions on public land within municipal watersheds will be designed to protect water quality and quantity.

All BLM initiated or authorized programs and actions potentially affecting wetland-riparian areas will comply with the spirit and intent of E.O. 11990 (Wetlands Act) and BLM policy as put forth in BLM Manual Section 6740.06. These directives stress the avoidance of (1) "...long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetland-riparian areas" and (2) the preservation and enhancement of "the natural and beneficial values of wetland-riparian areas which may include constraining or excluding those uses that cause significant, long-term ecological damage."

Roads and utility corridors will avoid riparian zones to the extent practicable. Bridges and culverts will be designed and installed to maintain adequate fish passage.

## Recreation

### Recreation Opportunities

A broad range of outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to be provided for all segments of the public, depending on demand. Trails and other means of public access will continue to be maintained and developed where necessary to enhance recreation opportunities and allow public use. Developed recreation facilities receiving the heaviest use will receive first priority for operation and maintenance funds. Sites that cannot be maintained to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected. Investment of public funds for new recreation developments will be only on land identified to remain in public ownership.

Recreation resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as a part of project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of recreation resources in the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to assure compatibility of projects with recreation management objectives.

### Motorized Vehicle Use

Travel planning, including the designation of areas open, limited, and closed to motorized vehicle access, will remain a high priority for public land. Public land within areas identified as open to motorized vehicle use generally will remain available for such use without restrictions. Exceptions to this general rule may be authorized after consideration of the following criteria:

1. The need to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resource values.
2. The need to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant degradation of wildlife habitats.
3. The need to promote user safety.
4. The need to provide use enjoyment and minimize use conflicts.

Public land within areas currently having motorized vehicle use restrictions generally will receive priority attention during travel planning. Specific roads, trails, or portions of such areas may be closed seasonally or yearlong to all or specified types of motorized vehicle use.

Public land within areas closed to motorized vehicle use will be closed yearlong to all forms of motorized vehicle use except emergency or authorized vehicles.

Restrictions and closures will be established for specific roads, trails, or areas only where problems have been identified. Areas not designated as limited or closed will remain open for motorized vehicle use except in an emergency: fire, flood, etc.

### Visual Resources

Visual resources will continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. Such evaluation will consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Stipulations will be attached as appropriate to maintain designated Visual Resource Management Classes.

## Wilderness Resources

The Petticoat Peak and Worm Creek WSAs will continue to be managed in compliance with BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM revised June 1986) until acted upon by Congress.

Public land within areas added by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System will be managed according to the BLM's Wilderness Management Policy and the 1964 Wilderness Act. Site-specific wilderness management plans would be developed for areas after designation by Congress.

## Fire Management

### Fire Control

Current BLM policy is to suppress all fires on or threatening protected lands with sufficient forces to contain the fire during the first burning period. The Area Manager will be contacted by Idaho Falls dispatch within thirty minutes of the discovery of any fire occurring in the PRA. The Area Manager will then determine if a resource advisor should be assigned to the fire.

In areas where controlling fires is extremely difficult or where the values threatened do not warrant the expense associated with the usual suppression procedures, managers may prepare advance plans for limited suppression actions for approval of the State Director.

Until fire management plans are developed in proposed WSAs, the BLM will continue all presuppression, suppression, and post-suppression fire activities under current methods of operation, using caution to avoid unnecessary impairment of an area's suitability for preservation as wilderness, ACEC, RNA, and recreation area.

### Fire Management

In areas where the use of fire as a resource tool is proposed, a prescribed fire plan will be prepared in advance of natural or intentional ignition.

### Fire Rehabilitation

Burned areas will be evaluated and analyzed to determine rehabilitation needs. Corrective measures to prevent erosion and restore resource uses.

## Cultural Resources

BLM is required to identify, evaluate, and protect cultural resources on public lands under its jurisdiction and to ensure that BLM initiated or

BLM authorized actions do not inadvertently harm or destroy non-Federal cultural resources. These requirements are mandated by the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 as amended by P.L. 933-191, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, E.O. 11593 (1971), Section 202 of the FLPMA, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, together with 36 CFR 800.

Prior to starting any BLM initiated or authorized action that involves surface disturbing activities, sale, or transfer from Federal management, a Class III inventory as specified in BLM Manual Section 8111.4 will be conducted. If properties that may be eligible for the National Register are discovered, BLM will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and forward the documentation to the Keeper of the National Register to obtain a determination of eligibility in accordance with 36 CFR Part 63.

Cultural resource values discovered in a proposed project or authorized action area will be protected by adhering to the following methods:

1. Avoidance. Cultural resources would be protected by redesigning or relocating the project or excluding significant cultural resource areas from development, use, or disposal.
2. Salvaging. If a project cannot be redesigned or relocated, cultural resource values will be salvaged through controlled, scientific methods pursuant to the State Historic Preservation Office agreement.
3. Project/Action Abandonment. If the site is determined to be of significant value or the above-mentioned methods are not considered adequate, the project will be abandoned.

All cultural sites identified as cultural resource management areas will be closed to ORV use, vegetation manipulation, and surface occupancy.

All cultural sites known to be eligible for National Register nomination or listed on the National Register will be protected from deterioration and be retained in Federal ownership.

Documented cemeteries and burial areas will be closed to livestock grazing. Cemeteries and burial areas will be withdrawn from mineral entry. NSO will be stipulated for documented cemeteries and burial areas.

#### Paleontological Resources

Various laws require the identification, evaluation, and protection of paleontological resources on public lands. Those laws include the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Petrified Wood Act of 1962, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Historical and Archaeological Data

Preservation Act of 1974, the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The management of paleontological resources of significant scientific interest is governed by these laws. Such resources include invertebrate or paleobotanical fossils considered objects of scientific interest by a qualified paleontologist. All vertebrate fossils are considered to be objects of significant scientific value.

The disposal of fossils considered to be scientifically significant may be allowed, but only if the fossils are removed for scientific purposes. Fossils that are not of scientific interest may be collected in small amounts for personal, non-commercial purposes without a permit. The removal of large quantities for commercial purposes requires a permit.

When paleontological resources of scientific value are discovered during authorized land use operations, these values will be protected through salvage or avoidance. Project termination may be mandatory in some cases.

Operations that have the potential of damaging paleontological resources of significant scientific interest are allowed only under the following conditions:

1. Operators shall not knowingly disturb, alter, injure, or destroy any scientifically important paleontological remains on Federal lands.
2. Operators shall immediately bring to the attention of the authorized officer any paleontological resources that might be altered or destroyed on Federal lands by his/her operations, and shall leave such discovery intact until told to proceed by the authorized officer. The authorized officer shall evaluate the discoveries brought to his/her attention and take action to protect or remove the resource.

Because fossil remains of shark and fish occur beneath the lowest ore zone of the Phosphoria Formation, phosphate exploration and mining operations usually do not disturb them. The two conditions listed above are not stipulated in phosphate prospecting permits or leases, but "notices to operators" are issued to ensure that the authorized officer is notified if/when such fossil deposits are encountered. Any evaluation or collection of material is conducted in a manner that would not significantly interfere with phosphate operations.

As previously noted, all vertebrate fossils are considered to be objects of significant scientific value and will be protected as required by law. However, the scientific significance of invertebrate and paleobotanical fossils within the PRA is undetermined at this time. Appropriate protection of fossil flora and invertebrate fauna will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

### Cadastral Survey

Cadastral surveys will continue to be conducted in support of resource management programs. Survey requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

### Road and Trail Construction and Maintenance

Road and trail construction and maintenance will continue to be conducted in support of resource management objectives. Construction and maintenance requirements and priorities will be determined on a yearly basis as a part of the annual work planning process.

Investment of public funds for road and trail construction generally will be permitted only on land identified for retention in public ownership. Exceptions may be allowed where investment costs can be recovered as a part of land disposal actions.

Specific road and trail construction standards will be determined based on the following criteria:

1. Resource management needs.
2. User safety.
3. Impacts to environmental values, including but not limited to wildlife and fisheries habitat, soil stability, recreation, and scenery.
4. Construction and maintenance costs.

### Detailed Management Plans

The RMP provides general guidance for the PRA. More detailed management plans called activity plans will be prepared to deal with areas where a greater level of detail is required. Activity plans will indicate specific management practices, improvements, allocations, and other information for a particular site or area. They will be prepared for most major BLM programs, including range (allotment management plans), recreation (recreation area management plans), wildlife (habitat management plans), and cultural resources (cultural resource management plans). Where two or more activities have activity planning needs in the same general area, a single consolidated activity plan may be prepared. Coordination, consultation, and public involvement are important in the formulation of activity plans.

## Economic and Social Considerations

BLM will ensure that any management action undertaken in connection with this plan is cost-effective (after considering both market and non-market values) and takes into account local, social, and economic factors. Cost-effectiveness may be determined by any method deemed appropriate by the BLM for the specific management action involved.

### Environmental Review

An environmental analysis or categorical exclusion review will be completed prior to approval of any project involving public lands. If no significant impacts are identified, the analysis will be documented through an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact. If the analysis suggests a major Federal action that would significantly affect the human environment, an environmental impact statement would be prepared.

### **SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS**

Once the RMP is approved, it will require support from many sources in order to be implemented. Support requirements are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7  
SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

SUPPORT	RESOURCE	REMARKS
Appraisal	Lands, Forestry, Range Management, Wildlife, Recreation	Appraisals must be conducted on those lands identified for transfer, acquisitions, permits, trespass, and rights-of-way. Also, access acquired for timber sales, range and wildlife projects, and recreation developments must be appraised.
Cadastral Survey	Minerals, Wildlife, Range, Lands, Forestry, Wilderness	Identification of public land boundaries may be required for actions such as: mineral disposal, land transfers, timber sales, range projects, wildlife projects, and occupancy trespass settlements.
Access	Forestry, Minerals, Range, Wildlife, Recreation, Cultural, Watershed	Legal access is required for a number of actions such as: timber sales, mineral disposal, range projects, recreation use, wildlife projects, cultural resource management, and watershed projects.

TABLE 7  
SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS  
Continued

SUPPORT	RESOURCE	REMARKS
Water Rights	Watershed, Wildlife, Range, Recreation	All BLM water developments require water permits.
Engineering	Range, Wildlife, Forestry, Recreation	Engineering design, review, and construction or contract preparation; administration of construction is required for range projects, recreation developments, and road building and maintenance projects.
Fire Management	Range and Wildlife Habitat Management	Technical assistance is required for preparation of prescriptions for prescribed burning and fire management on prescribed burns designed to improve range and wildlife habitat.
	All	Fire suppression, as specified in the RMP for the protection of resource values and property.

#### CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

This proposed plan does not appear to be inconsistent with the officially adopted plans, programs, or policies of other Federal, State, or local governments or with Indian tribes. The public comments to date have shown no inconsistencies.

All or portions of seven counties are located within the PRA. All County Commissions from the seven counties were contacted and their corresponding land use plans were reviewed (if available). As a result of the review, this Draft plan does not appear inconsistent with their officially adopted plans. Coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Cities of Pocatello and Soda Springs, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribe does not indicate any inconsistencies.

Agencies, governments, and Indian tribes may notify BLM of inconsistencies with their plans during the 90-day public review period. The final RMP/EIS will document inconsistencies and, if they cannot be remedied, will explain why.

BLM planning regulations provide for a 60-day review by the Governor of BLM's proposed plans/ final EISs or amendments (1610.3-2(e)). The purpose of this review is to give the Governor the opportunity to identify inconsistencies between BLM's proposed plan and State or local plans, policies, or programs. A Memorandum of Understanding (May 3, 1984) with the Office of the Governor has been executed to provide for The Governor's consistency review. In accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding, the BLM has notified the Governor about the Pocatello RMP and will provide the proposed plan and associated final EIS, including BLM's responses to comments on the Draft Plan and EIS, to the Office of the Governor for the 60-day review.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Decisions in the plan will be implemented over a period of years and must be tied to the BLM budgeting process. Priorities will be established to guide the order of implementation for each resource and will be reviewed annually to help develop annual work plan commitments for the coming year. New policy, Departmental guidance, or new BLM goals may influence priorities.

Detailed activity plans and environmental assessments may be needed before taking some actions such as timber harvest or range improvement construction. Rangeland improvement projects, for example, will require a site-specific analysis and a review of economic efficiency.

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The results of implementing the selected RMP will be examined periodically to inform the BLM resource managers and the public of the progress of the plan. The results being achieved under the plan will be compared with the plan objectives.

Monitoring and evaluation will assist the resource managers to:

1. Determine whether an action is accomplishing the intended purpose.
2. Determine whether mitigating measures are satisfactory.
3. Determine if the decisions in the plan are being implemented.
4. Determine if the related plans of other agencies, governments, or Indian tribes have changed, resulting in an inconsistency with the RMP.

5. Identify any unanticipated or unpredictable effects.
6. Identify new data of significance to the plan.

The proposed monitoring and evaluation plan for the PRA RMP is shown in Appendix H. The plan specifies resource components to be monitored and how, when, and where these components will be monitored. Monitoring intensity (the number and frequency of studies) will vary among areas and allotments according to the amount of information that is needed to determine if the plan objectives are being met. If monitoring shows that RMP objectives are not being met, the reasons will be examined closely. An RMP decision may need to be changed even if the problem is due to factors beyond BLM's control, such as changes in the climate or economic factors.